Price control on medicines

1211. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to implement price control on medicines after the Supreme Court order of making essential medicines affordable to public;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the steps taken for the same;

(c) the details including the list of essential drugs and the criteria adopted to categorize the essential drugs; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to implement the above?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (d) In the draft National Pharmaceutical Policy 2006 it has been proposed, *inter-alia*, to control the prices of medicines as mentioned in the National List of Essential Medicines 2003 prepared by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. That Ministry followed the following criteria for identifying medicines for inclusion in the National List of Essential Medicines 2003:

Consideration of relevant disease burden in the country.

Information on the efficacy, safety and comparative cost effectiveness of the products.

Preference for single active compounds.

Cost effectiveness in the context of cost of treatment.

Available health delivery infrastructure (e.g. treatment facilities, training and experience of the available personnel; availability, financial resources; and environmental factors etc.).